

A RESOLUTION

05-R-0123

BY COUNCILMEMBERS MARY NORWOOD, CEASAR C. MITCHELL, H. LAMAR WILLIS, JOYCE SHEPERD, C. T. MARTIN, ANNE FAUVER, AND CARLA SMITH

AS SUBSTITUTED BY PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING JUDGES OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA AND THE ATLANTA CITY COURT TO IMPOSE A MINIMUM FINE AND A MINIMUM TERM OF IMPRISONMENT FOR PERSONS CHARGED WITH AN OFFENSE WHO FAIL TO APPEAR FOR SCHEDULED COURT HEARINGS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Whereas, the failure of a person **charged with an offense**, to appear at a scheduled hearing in the City of Atlanta Municipal Court or in the Atlanta City Court, interferes with the efficiency and the proper administration of justice in the City's Court system; and

Whereas, many persons **charged with an offense**, often do not take seriously their obligation to appear at scheduled court hearings; and

Whereas, increasing the punishment for **such** a person's failure to appear would act as a deterrent and decrease the number of persons **charged with an offense** who fail to appear for scheduled court hearings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, as follows:

Section 1: The Judges of the Municipal Court of the City of Atlanta and the Atlanta City Court are hereby encouraged to impose a minimum fine of \$500.00 along with a minimum term of imprisonment of thirty (30) days for persons **charged with an offense** who, without good cause, fail to appear for scheduled court hearings. For purposes of this resolution, "good cause" shall include but not be limited to documented medical illness or death in a person's immediate family.

Section 2: Upon adoption and approval of this resolution, the Municipal Clerk is hereby requested to forward a copy of same to each of the Judges of the Municipal Court of the City of Atlanta and the Atlanta City Court.

Section 3: All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.

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Whereas, the failure of a person to appear at a scheduled hearing in the City of Atlanta Municipal Court or in the Atlanta City Court, interferes with the efficiency and the proper administration of justice in the City's Court system; and

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